DEAN & CHANCELLOR LISTS
PAGE 9

STUDENT ART
PAGE 7

SPRING SCHEDULE
PAGE 9

Home of the Arctic Dragons

Mat-Su Monitor

FALL 2025 FREE VOLUME 49 NUMBER 1

Picture by Mat-Su College student Sage Ivey. More works and interview on page 6.

MAT-SU COLLEGE ART DEPARTMENT
Makers Market
December 5th, 3pm to 8pm
and
December 6th, 9am to 3pm

- Handmade arts and crafts
- Silent Auction
- Gift wrapping table (for donations)
- Event is free to attend
- Food available for purchase

SIGN UP TO BE A VENDOR
Deadline: November 19th

Contact Michelle with questions @ mlmishaan@alaska.edu

A Lesson on Home Winterization from Mat-Su College

As the crisp autumn air gives way to the looming chill of winter, homeowners are reminded of a critical task: winterizing their property. This annual practice is more than a simple chore; it's a vital investment in your home's longevity and your family's comfort and safety. Taking proactive steps now can prevent costly damage, reduce energy bills, and ensure a warm and worry-free season.

Starting outside your home, it is important to turn off the water supply

See **WINTERIZATION** *page 11*

INDEX

Student Government.....3
Student Resources.....4
Community 5
Featured Artist 6
Student Art.....7
Spring schedule.....8
Dean & Chancellor Lists.....9
Puzzles 10

Mat-Su College students working on a project for NASA. Photo by Nick McDermott.

NASA's RockSat Program

By Justice Darby

NASA's RockSat program is a series of challenges for undergraduate students set around the designing, building, and testing of sounding rocket experiments. The program is broken up into three parts that act as a pipeline to more complex challenges, culminating in a launch at Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia.

See **Rocksat** *page 11*

New Courses Land at Mat-Su College for 2025

The new academic year brings new opportunities to Mat-Su College. As the valley continues to grow, so do the offerings at the local campus of the University of Alaska Anchorage. The new courses debuting this year cover a wide range of topics and future career paths.

College Director, Dr. Marie Gardner, says, "It is exciting to be able to offer new courses and programs at Mat-Su College." She continues, "Mat-Su College is steadfast and focused on helping valley residents with their post-secondary training needs, as well as helping meet the workforce needs of the valley."

If you are interested in any of the new courses introduced below, Mat-Su College advisors are available to meet with you. You can make an appointment at https://bit.ly/MSCAdvise.

PRIVATE PILOT GROUND SCHOOL - ATP A100

This course prepares students for the Federal Aviation Private Pilot Airplane Knowledge Test.

Includes basic aerodynamics, aircraft instruments, radio communication, navigation, weather information, and dissemination services.

Covers Federal Aviation Regulations and the Aeronautical Information Manual.

DYNAMICS - ES A210

This course includes kinematics and kinetics of particles and rigid body motion.

Applies principles of work and energy, impulse, and momentum to particles and rigid body motion.

See **New Classes** *page 2*

Mat-Su student appointed Community Engaged Student Assistant

Kaia Hunsaker MSC 2025 CESA

Second year student Kaia Hunsaker has been appointed a Community Engaged Student Assistant (CESA) and has received a $500 scholarship award. In this role, she will complete 45 hours of work with Dr. Jennifer Bernard from the College of Business on the community project "Tenant Success Workshop." This is a housing training workshop for previously incarcerated people in Anchorage and the Mat-Su Valley. This work is funded by the Selkregg Award for community engagement.

Kaia will work with Dr. Bernard and nonprofit partners NeighborWorks Alaska, Anchorage Reentry Coalition, and Housing to Home Referral Network on creating and launching the project, which includes a total of four workshops in Anchorage and the Valley. Her appointment under-

See CESA WINNER page 2

Upcoming events:

October 20: Spring schedule viewable on UAOnline.

October 24-November 9: Sweeney Todd play at Glenn Massay Theater.

October 27: Spring registration begins.

October 31: Withdrawal deadline.

November 5 and 6: Nature walks, 12-1. Meet in FSM lobby.

November 6: Yoga, 1-2. Theater.

November 20: Yoga, 1-2. Theater.

November 26: No classes, campus open.

November 27, 28, 29: campus closed.

December 5: Deadline to apply for fall graduation.

December 8-13: Finals.

January 12: Spring classes begin.

Club meeting times:

For questions regarding clubs, contact student government at 907-745-9759 or uaa_mscstudentgov@alaska.edu

Dungeons & Dragons Club: Fridays,1 pm, FSM 205

Book Club: Tuesdays, 1 pm, OLB 214

Dance Club: Thursdays, 4:30 pm, FSM 202

Education Club: Contact Chelsea Sohm at clsohm@alaska.edu

JEDI Alliance : Contact Dr. Jennifer Bernard at jdbernard@alaska.edu

Journey Human Services Club: Contact Dr. Dave Evans at dtevans@alaska.edu

Mat-Su Monitor: Thursdays, 3:30 pm, OLB 214

Mosaic Matsu Bible Study: 2:30pm, JKB 112

Nihongo Tadoku Club: Zoom. Contact sninoyu@alaska.edu for the link.

Robotics club: Weekdays 10 am -3 pm. JKB 120.

Student Government: Tuesdays, 4:00 pm, FSM 106

Move over NASA, Here Comes Mat-Su College

By Nick McDermott

How do you figure out how big something is if it's the size of a planet? Thanks to students at Mat-Su College and the University of Alaska Anchorage, we have the answer and method that will be used by NASA to train future astronauts and rocket scientists.

The team, made up of Justice Darby, Kenny Sparks, Walter Nagle, and advised by Dr. Dan Nichols, Associate Professor of Physics at Mat-Su College, created an experiment that was launched into space at 5:30 a.m. Eastern Time on June 26, 2025. Dr. Nichols joined Darby and Sparks at the launch site at Wallops Flight Facility.

Dr. Nichols says, "I had the honor of watching my students grow into highly capable engineers through their work on this eight-month project. They combined their skills in electronics, sensor integration, software development, and data analysis to design and execute a successful experiment."

The scientific community already has a generally accepted number for the mass of our planet; in fact, it is 5.972 × 10^24 kg. What's special about this project is that the team got the right answer with their own method and a new sophisticated computer program to analyze all the data collected as the rocket raced out of our atmosphere.

Dr. Nichols says, "The analysis software developed by these students will be used by future generations of students working on rocketry experiments, forming a foundation for continued innovation and learning." Analysis of the data gathered from the flight is still ongoing, with results expected by the end of July.

These engineering students sure proved they have the right stuff, and if you search for it, you can find a video of the rocket launch at RockOn!/RockSat-C 2025 Launch.

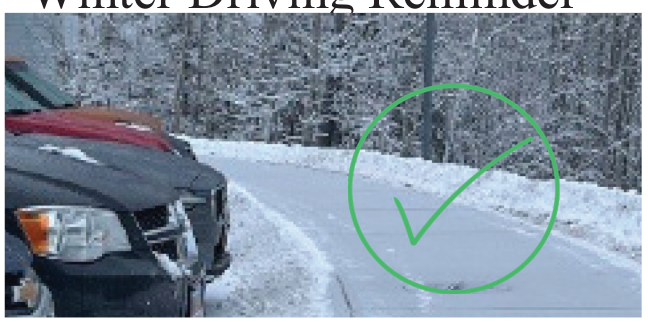
CESA Winner *continued from page 1*

scores Mat-Su College/UAA's commitment to community and hands-on learning and gives students the opportunity to apply classroom knowledge to real-world challenges that impact our communities.

Kaia will prepare an informational poster describing the project and share it at the annual Community Engagement Forum in Anchorage this Spring 2026.

We're excited to have Kaia in this role representing Mat-Su College!

Winter Driving Reminder



With snow returning to campus, it is a good time to remind everyone to give yourself extra time for your campus commute. Classes won't wait for you to arrive.

While driving on campus, please follow all posted signage and be sure to park in areas that have already been plowed. Also, if parking along a sidewalk, be sure not to have any part of your vehicle hanging over the sidewalk so crews can clear the snow.

New Classes *continued from page 1*

INTRO TO NONPROFIT MANAGEMENT - BA A294C
This course offers an overview of the nonprofit sector, covering topics like governance, fundraising, and program development.

If you are passionate about social change and want to lead or work at a nonprofit, this course is for you.

Enroll now and start your journey in nonprofit management!

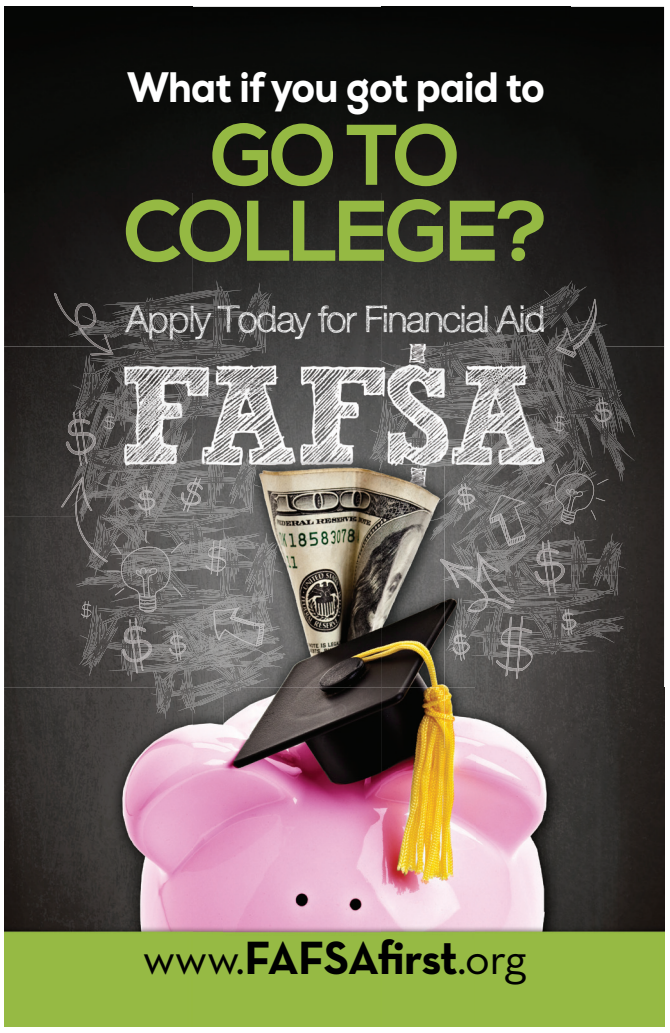
DRAIN, WASTE, VENT - RH A194C
Includes the concepts behind designing drain, waste, and vent plumbing systems.

Explores basic plumbing practices, such as pipe sizing, pipe support, and pressure testing.

Offers instruction in the proper use of tools and materials.

PLUMBING CODES 1 - RH A194
Delves into the requirements for plumbing drain, waste, and vent systems.

Correlates these codes with the need to maintain the continued good operation of those systems and the health and safety of those who build or use these systems.



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The *Mat-Su Monitor* is the student newspaper of Mat-Su College. The *Monitor* aims to report college news and serve as a forum for student writing. The *Monitor* seeks submissions of news, editorials, and short fiction from all students, staff, and faculty of Mat-Su College. All students are invited to attend the *Monitor* weekly meetings. Details on participating in or submitting content to the Monitor can be found at https://matsu.alaska.edu/offices/student-government/student-clubs/mat-su-monitor.cshtml.

The Mat-Su *Monitor* is funded by the Mat-Su College Student Government Association and our advertisers. For information on advertising in the *Monitor* contact Micah Muer at mwmuer@alaska.edu or 907-745-9758.

The opinions expressed the Monitor article are solely those of its authors. They do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policy of the college, its students and employees, or the wider University of Alaska system.

Submissions policy

Students are invited to submit articles and letters to the editor to matsu.monitor@alaska.edu or at https://matsu.alaska.edu/monitor. The Mat-Su Monitor will not accept anonymous submissions, though with prior arrangement articles of a sensitive nature can appear anonymously. All submissions are subject to editing and will only appear with the approval of the editor.

Student Government Meeting: A Newbie's Take

By Mariia Kalmykova

I went to a student government meeting for the first time, and honestly, it was pretty interesting and informative. Everyone at the meeting was respectful and welcoming. Reports and concerns are taken seriously, and every idea or motion is thoughtfully discussed before any decisions are made. It's cool how open they are to hearing everyone's thoughts. Each event is carefully planned and approved by all the members — like "Barbecue Thursday," which turned out pretty successful!

On another note, I got to meet students from all kinds of clubs and learn about what they're up to. For example, the Dungeons & Dragons Club is working hard to become an official club on campus and is currently collecting signatures. They're almost there! There were updates from several other clubs, too. The Book Club (which is already recognized) is planning a Halloween-themed meeting, and the Robotics Club just got officially recognized. Anyone can start a club as long as they complete the paperwork, find a faculty advisor, and get approval from Student Government. Once approved, clubs can even reserve rooms on campus through 25Live.

Each semester, Student Government hosts a "Pizza Meeting" — yes, that's actually what it's called. This time, someone suggested switching to Subway sandwiches so students can easily grab something on the go. But honestly I'd prefer the subway sandwiches just because they seem more healthy (ngl). And here's a fun fact I heard during the meeting: every last Tuesday of the month, Great Alaska Pizza Company sells $6 pizzas all day!

Currently, the Planning Committee is still deciding on the theme and date for the fall dance; maybe Halloween, Thanksgiving, or something else with an Autumn theme? They're working within a set budget and mentioned how clubs can help out with setting up for events. Sharon Peak, president of the Dance Club and basically a decoration expert, loves helping out with that kind of stuff!

Oh, one more thing! Don't forget to get ready for Pink Off on October 22nd! For this day you get to wear an ALL PINK outfit. The event coincides with Breast Cancer Awareness Month. If you're looking to win the competition you also have to make it a wild one!

Overall, I walked out of the meeting feeling more connected to the campus. It's nice to know there are people actively working to make student life better through events, clubs, or just helping others get involved. I definitely left with a better understanding of how much effort goes into making things happen behind the scenes.

JOIN THE MSCSG COUNCIL!

What is the MSCSG COUNCIL?

- MSCSG stands for Mat-Su College Student Government. We are an organization of students, faculty and staff. We work to promote ant create the most engaging environment possible for the students.

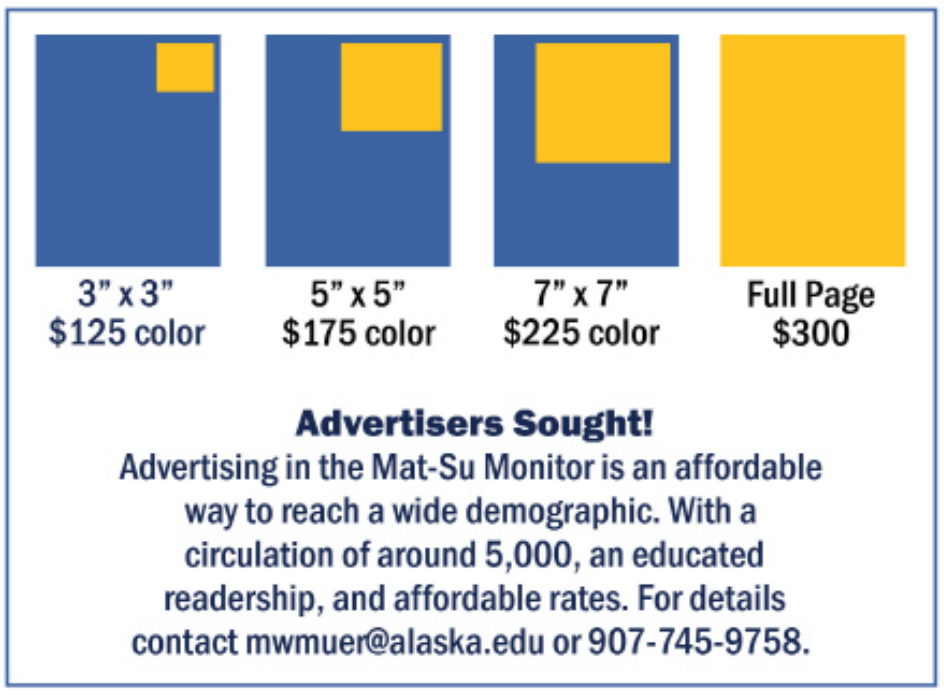
What does the MSCSG COUNCIL DO?

- The council organizes and runs special events and advocates for the students year round.
- The council offers financial assistance to student clubs for supplies throughout the year

WHY SHOULD I JOIN?

- You will get connected. Be the first to hear about decisions and changes that are in the works. You also have the opportunity to become more familiar with other students that attend our campus and other campuses.
- You will make a difference. Your voice matters! Your voice and ideas can improve the quality of community for your fellow students.
- Its fun! You will have the opportunity to help plan fun, engaging events.

Grab a senator packet today from the Student Government office JKB 114. Or email us at uaa_mscstudentgov@alaska.edu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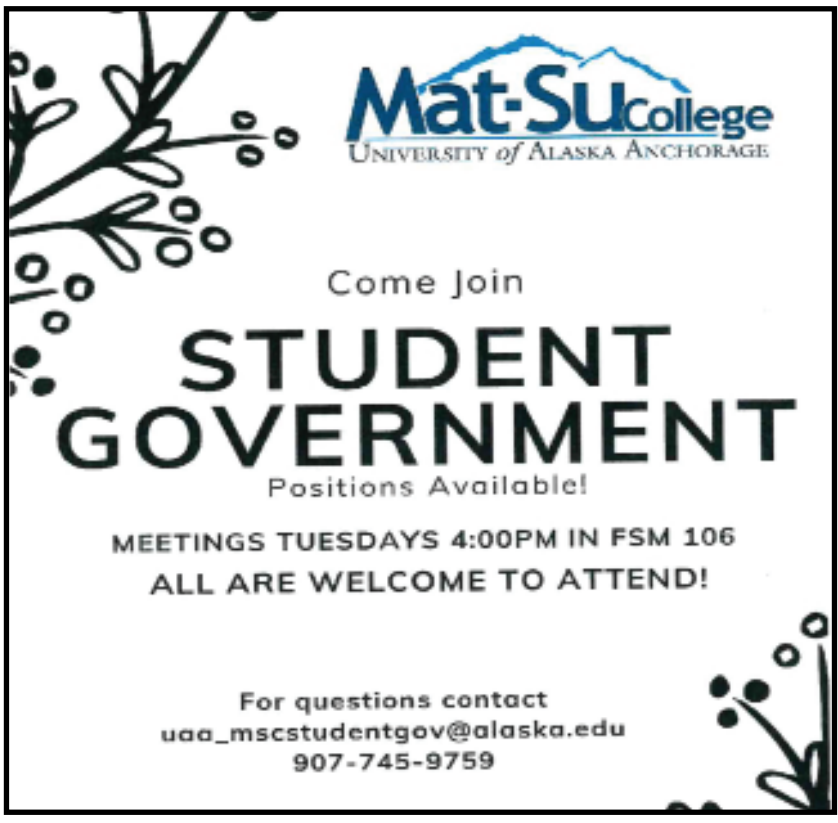
Advertising in the Mat-Su Monitor is an affordable way to reach a wide demographic. With a circulation of around 5,000, an educated readership, and affordable rates. For details contact mwmuer@alaska.edu or 907-745-9758.

From the Student Government President: Welcome to the new school year!

Greetings Students of Mat-SU College,

I am excited to be here this year! While I am new to this position, I hope to give a wider variety of events to the campus. If anyone would like to have a voice in planning events or opinions, feel free to join us in Student Government. Meetings are held in FSM 106 from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm weekly on Tuesdays. Any and all ideas are welcome.

Student Government President - Justice Darby



MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Play an important role on the Mat-Su College Campus. Being on a committee can help to enhance your career, give you a chance to give back to your community, and give you the opportunity to challenge yourself by helping to shape your society.

Current Mat-Su College Committees open to the student body:

Board of Elections	Rules Committee
Concert Committee	Pizza Committee
Constitution Committee	Planning Committee
Dance Committee	Finance Committee
Health and Wellness Committee	

Or join one of the student clubs. Clubs are a great place to meet like minded people, have fun, learn new things and relax. Many clubs are on pause during COVID-19, but some are still active, including the Mat-Su Monitor, the LGBTQ+ Club, and possibly others. See the college website for the latest details or email matsu.monitor@alaska.edu.

Joining a committee or club looks good on resumes as well as gives you a chance to connect with fellow students, staff and faculty. You owe it to yourself to try them out. If you don't see a club that interests you, you can start one of your own. Student Government will fund you up to $300 to cover expenses. You can pick up a form at the Student Government office in JKB 114, near the café.

LOST & FOUND

HOUSED IN THE LIBRARY

MISSING YOUR...

Keys?
Phone?
Jacket?
Headphones?
Flash drive?
Other item?

Just ask at the library desk of call (907) 745-9740
your item might have been found

Find Jobs and Internships on HANDSHAKE

3 EASY STEPS TO GET STARTED

Sign Into Your Profile
Sign into you profile using your UA credentials at alaska.joinhandshake.com

Update Your Profile Information
Upload your resume and change necessary information such as your graduation date, major, etc.

Stay on Track
Check back daily for new listings, events, and favorite jobs to never miss a deadline. Download the app and keep up with the latest opportunities.

Handshake Mat-Su College, University of Alaska Anchorage

UA is an AA/EO employer and educational institution and prohibits illegal discrimination against any individual: www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination.

Need Money for college?

Mat-Su College Financial Aid is here to help!!

-THE FAFSA APPLICATION
-SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION
-STUDENT LOANS
-TROUBLESHOOTING FINANCIAL AID PROBLEMS
-SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY ADVISING
-VETERANS SERVICES

If you have any questions, please scan the QR code or visit tinyurl.com/3fsv5w58 to find contact information or to make an appointment with a Mat-Su College financial aid advisor.

Mat-Su College Library

By Nick McDermott

With the school year starting, Mat-Su College wants you to know that the library at your hometown campus is open to the public and it has much more than just books for you to check out.

Before getting to the 'More," the Alvin S. Okeson Library does have great books, and it is open to the community – not just students. Anyone can come in and borrow a book on their favorite topic or written by their favorite writer.

If you are a K-12 student and the library at your school does not have what you need for your project, come to the college. If the book you need is not on their shelves, staff can order it and have it sent from another library around the state, or beyond. Campus librarian Micha Muer says, "All you need is a library card, either from a local library or from us."

Now for the much more.

The library at the campus has thousands of academic and popular movies that can be checked out just like a book, for free!

If music is more your jam, there are also thousands of CDs and vinyl records for you to borrow.

The library also has computer workstations anyone can use. Muer says, "Those who come into the library can also use one of our computer lab stations to access all the databases subscribed to by the University of Alaska Anchorage. You can also use them to check your email or even update a resume."

The Alvin S. Okeson Library is open from 8 am to 7 pm Monday through Thursday, 9 am to 5 pm on Fridays, and 9 am to 4 pm on Saturdays. Muer says, "We're a great place to study, to read the paper, or work on a puzzle! Come on by, we're glad to help!"

For more information on the library at Mat-Su College, visit matsu.alaska.edu/library/ or call 907-786-1871.

Tutoring

For students enrolled at Mat-Su College, the Learning Resource Center offers tutoring in the following topics:

Math Tutor: Ronna Williams

Monday ..... 1:30 - 4:30
Tuesday ..... 2:30 - 5:30
Wednesday ... 10:00 - 1:00
Thursday ..... 2:30 - 5:30
Friday ..... 10:00 - 1:00

Writing Tutors: Dena Luchsinger

Monday ..... 10:30 - 1:30
Wednesday ..... 10:30 - 1:30
Friday ..... 10:30 - 1:30 by appointment

For more information or to make a tutoring appointment, visit the LRC Tutoring webpage. https://matsu.alaska.edu/offices/learning-resource-center/tutoring.cshtml

My Mental Health: Do I need Help?

First, determine how much your symptoms interfere with your daily life.

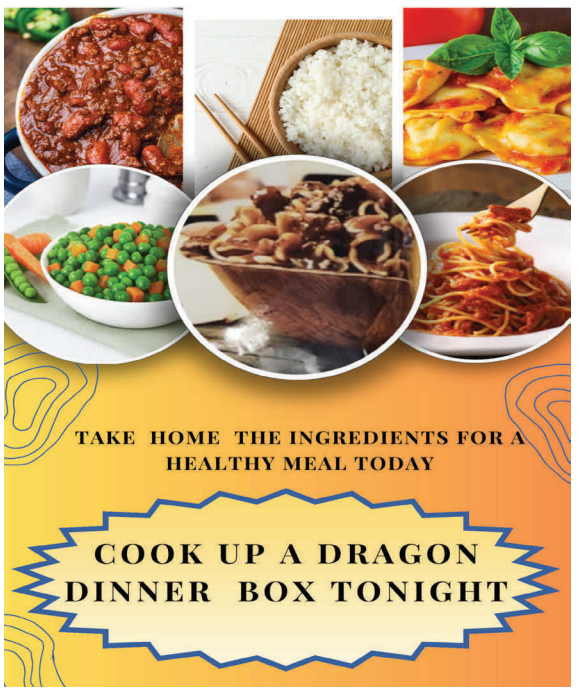
Do I have severe symptoms that have lasted 2 weeks or more?
- Feeling a little down
- Feeling down, but still able to do job, schoolwork, or housework
- Some trouble sleeping
- Feeling down, but still able to take care of yourself or take care of others

Do I have severe symptoms that have lasted 2 weeks or more?
- Difficulty sleeping
- Appetite changes that result in unwanted weight changes
- Struggling to get out of bed in the morning because of mood
- Difficulty concentrating
- Loss of interest in things you usually find enjoyable
- Unable to perform usual daily functions and responsibilities
- Thoughts of death or self-harm

If so, here are some self-care activities that may help:
- Exercising (e.g., aerobics, yoga)
- Engaging in social contact (virtual or in person)
- Getting adequate sleep on a regular schedule
- Eating Healthy
- Talking to a trusted friend or family member
- Practicing meditation, relaxation, and mindfulness

If the symptom(s) do not improve or seem to be worsening despite self-care efforts, talk to your health care provider.

Seek professional help:
- Psychotherapy (talk-therapy)—virtual or in person; individual, group or family
- Medications
- Brain stimulation therapies
- For help finding treatment, visit



Free Dragon Dinner Boxes are available to students at the Student Government office, Campus Cache, and various locations on campus. Students can also visit their neighborhood food pantry and provide their student ID card to receive a box. This program is sponsored by the Mat-Su College Student Government, Mat-Su Health Foundation, and the Mat-Su Food Bank.

Microsoft Office, For Free

By Art Corvelay

As a student affiliated with a UAA campus, you have free access to Microsoft's Office 365 website.

Office 365 offers browser-based versions of some the popular Office programs: Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. These lack a few features found in their desktop counterparts, but make up for that by saving your files to "the cloud" and by allowing multiple users to simultaneously edit the same document.

Better still, Office 365 users have the option to install the full 2016 versions of Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Simply sign into Office 365 and click the "Install Now" button.

You can access Office 365 by visiting https://portal.office.com and signing in with your UA username followed by @alaska.edu.

Students who want a free, no-strings-attached office suite that will be available long past their graduation should look at LibreOffice (https://www.libreoffice.org/).

Makers Market Debuts at Mat-Su College!

The holiday season is just around the corner, and Mat-Su College is excited to announce Makers Market, a festive two-day celebration of local talent and community connection.

Dozens of local artisans and crafty individuals will gather to showcase their unique, handmade wares, from intricate jewelry to cozy textiles and beyond. The event, free and open to the public, will take place on Friday, December 5, from 3 to 8 p.m., and Saturday, December 6, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Attendees can expect to find truly one-of-a-kind gifts for their loved ones. Mat-Su College Fine Art Professor Michelle Mishaan says, "This event is about more than shopping—it's about celebrating the creativity of our community," said Michelle Mishaan, Fine Arts Professor at Mat-Su College and coordinator of the event. "When you support local art, you're helping to keep stories, traditions, and innovation alive."

There will also be a gift-wrapping table and silent auction with proceeds benefiting the Mat-Su College Art Department.

The weekend will be even more festive as the Glenn Massay Theater, located on the Mat-Su College campus, hosts special programming at the same time as the holiday craft fair: Sonja's Studio of Performing Arts' annual winter recital performances.

Between the craft fair and the theater's events, visitors can expect a campus alive with holiday energy, music, art, and community spirit. "Art has the power to brighten our long winters with hope and connection," Mishaan added. "We invite everyone to come share in the spirit of the season and be part of the glow."

Important Details:

- Dates: Friday, December 5th (3 pm–8 pm) and Saturday, December 6th (9 am–3 pm)
- Location: Mat-Su College
- Admission: FREE

Vendor Opportunities Still Available!

If you're interested in joining the Makers Market, please contact the Mat- Su College Campus Cache to reserve your spot, call 907-745-9739 or email msc.campus.cache@alaska.edu.

HEALTHCARE WORKERS ARE IN DEMAND!
Many jobs require training but not a degree.
Mat-Su Health Foundation vocational scholarships can help!
MAT-SU HEALTH FOUNDATION
Apply today at healthymatsu.org

Mat-Su College Features Local Artists

By Nick McDermott

This upcoming academic year is going to be a busy one for the Gallery at Mat-Su College. Exciting artists with ties to Alaska will be presenting their unique creations to students, and everyone is invited!

The Gallery at Mat-Su College is overseen by the campus's Fine Art Professor, Michelle Mishaan. She says, "Since moving to Alaska two years ago, I have awakened to a new depth of experience—one grounded in lived presence and an active engagement with the now." She is using that experience to inform her own art, as well as her plans for the Gallery.

Ken Harris is a local artist who could not escape the pull of his Alaskan roots. His mother was from Chignik, and his father was from California. He was raised in Northern California, where he became interested in watercolor in his early teen years. He studied art at community colleges in California and has continued a lifelong study of drawing and painting on his own.

Ken and his wife, Connie, now call the Matanuska Valley home—but for Ken, it is also his inspiration. These days, much of his work focuses on landscapes and wildflowers of Alaska and scenes of the Valley.

Ken's solo watercolor opening will be held on November 7th in campus room FSM 200 from 4 pm to 6 pm.

Fueled by a deep love of the arts, Diane Paoletti began her journey learning from the European Old Masters, but on her own time. She studied their techniques and methods and now shares what she has learned. Since 2011, Diane has taught oil painting in her studio in Palmer, Alaska. She believes it is her privilege to teach the means of making art, not the ends, hoping to give students the skills they need to express their own creative ideas.

Diane's solo show opening will be held on February 6th in campus room FSM 200 from 4 pm to 6 pm.

Rarefied Light is Alaska's largest annual fine art photography exhibition, and it will be returning to the gallery at Mat-Su College. It is being curated this year by Stephanie Johnson, a globally recognized leader and mentor of Intentional Camera Movement (ICM) and creative photography.

See **ARTISTS** *page 11*

Mat-Su College presents Sage Ivey

We have the honor of showcasing Sage Ivey, a student artist from Mat-Su College. Michelle Michaan, an assistant professor of art, is Sage's art instructor. Ivey's artwork is on exhibit in the Mat-Su College Art Department, located upstairs in the Fred Machentaz Building.

Monitor: Tell us a little bit about yourself!

Ivey: I'll be 20 soon, I'm Athabaskan and Inupiaq (father is Athabaskan from the village called McGrath above the Kuskokwim river, and mother is half Inupiaq and white). I have two cats and a lot of internet friends for company.

Monitor: What kind of art do you make?

Ivey: Digital cartoon art in my style, traditional pieces (in my cartoonish style or realistic; mainly my own style.) I have not made any still lifes, paintings, or realistic portraits for any non-academic reason. I also make indigenous jewelry (bone necklaces and earrings made with seed beads).

Monitor: What inspires you to do art? Are there any artists or art styles that've inspired you?

Ivey: What mostly inspires me to do art is to keep my brain active. I don't want to feel unproductive. Artists that inspire me are Jamie Hewlett and musician Damon Albarn. Damon inspires me because he is addicted to creating his music and he has a lot of profound wisdom. Jamie inspires me because his art style (primarily of the 2000's) integrated into my art in a way when I was around 16 years old. Thirdly, I suppose Frederick Machetanz inspires me because he was so passionate about depicting indigenous Alaskans.

Monitor: Does your art have any themes or recurring elements?

Ivey: Native Alaskan themes.

Monitor: What are your art goals, both short-term and long term?

Ivey: Long-term: advance in every facet of my work (all jewelry, all drawing mediums, and painting). I imagine this will take the course of many years to advance in all.

Short-term: make another traditional art comic and make one digital piece, perhaps make a digital comic.

Thank you Sage for sharing some of yourself with our reader. Here's wishing you great success in the future.

MAT-SU COLLEGE

STUDENT ART
IS ON DISPLAY UPSTAIRS IN FSM

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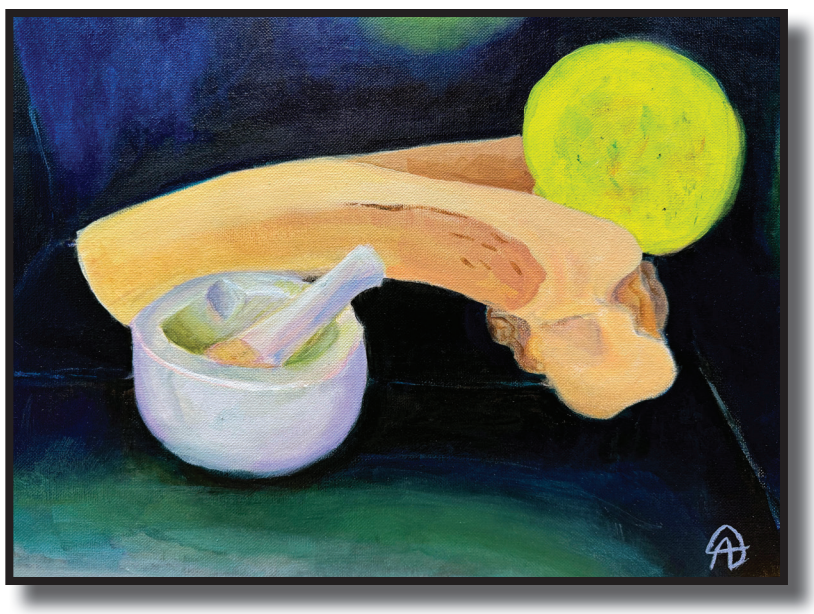
MAT-SU COLLEGE
ART DEPARTMENT



ACCOUNTING
- Principles Financial Accounting
- Principles of Managerial Accounting
- Workpaper Prep & Present

ANTHROPOLOGY
- *Alaska Native Cultures
- *Alaska Native Perspective

ART
- *Art Appreciation
- *History of Western Art I
- Advanced Painting
- Intermediate Watercolor
- Beginning Painting
- Intermediate Painting
- Beginning Watercolor
- Introduction to Art Education

AVIATION TECH/PROFESSIONAL PILOTING
- Private Pilot Ground School

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
- *Business Foundations
- Business Law I
- Computer Concepts in Business
- Entrepreneur & Small Bus Mgmt
- Fundamentals of Supervision
- Marketing Practices
- Personal Finance

BIOLOGY
- *Human Anatomy & Phys I & Lab
- *Human Anatomy & Phys II & Lab
- *Introductory Biology & Lab

CHEMISTRY
- *General Chemistry I & Lab
- *General Chemistry II & Lab
- *Intro to General Chemistry & Lab
- *Intro to Organic/Biochemistry & Lab

COMMUNICATION
- *Fund Oral Communication
- *Public Speaking

COMPUTER & ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGY
- CCNA 2
- Comp User Support & Help Desk
- Customer Service Fundament
- Industry Net Directory Config
- Individual Technical Project
- Industry App Infrastructure
- Industry Workplace Experience
- Local Area Networks
- PC Technician Fundamentals
- Intro to Information Security

ECONOMICS
- *Principles of Macroeconomics
- *Principles of Microeconomics

EARLY CHILHOOD EDUCATION
- Creativity Early Childhood
- Health Nutr Wellness Child
- Guiding Young Children
- Early Childhood Practicum

EMERGENCY SERVICES
- Emergency Medical Tech I

ENGLISH
- Introduction to Creative Writing
- *British Narratives
- Creative Writing Workshop

GEOGRAPHY
- *Discovry AK Physical Geography

GEOLOGY
- *Planet Earth & Lab

HISTORY
- *Europe in the Modern Worl
- *History of United States
- The Second World War
- *Western Civilization Before 1650

HUMAN SERVICES
- Intro to Population Health
- History of Systems of Change
- Cases in SUD Treatment

JUSTICE
- *Intro to Criminal Justice
- *Intro to Juvenile Justice
- *Theories of Crime and Offenses

LANGUAGES
- *Elementary ASL II
- *Elementary Japanese II
- *Elementary Spanish I
- *Elementary Spanish II

LOGISTICS
- Logistics, Info Sys & Cust Service

MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS
- *Applied College Algebra
- *Calculus I
- *Calculus II
- *Calculus III
- *Elementary Statistics
- Intermediate Algebra

MEDICAL ASSISTING
- Medical Terminology
- Essentials of Human Disease
- Your Health & Social Services Career

MUSIC
- *Music Appreciation

PHILOSOPHY
- *Early Modern Philosophy
- *Intro to Logic
- *Introduction to Philosophy

PHYSICS
- *College Physics I & Lab
- *College Physics II & Lab
- *General Physics II & Lab

PSYCHOLOGY
- *Introduction to Psychology
- *Lifespan Development

QUANTITATIVE SKILLS
- Elementary Algebra
- *College Algebra for Calculus
- *Trigonometry

REFRIGERATION & HEATING
- HVAC/R Control Systems
- HVAC/R Distribution System
- HVAC/R Troubleshooting
- Refrigeration & AC II
- Plumbing Codes II
- Plumbing: Supply Piping

SOCIOLOGY
- *Introduction to Sociology

STATISTICS
- ***Elementary Statistics**

VETERINARY ASSISTING
- Handling & Behavior: Lg Animals
- Introduction to Large Animals
- Vet Anatomy & Physiology

VETERINARY TECHNICIAN
- Applied Sm Animal Behavior
- Vet Diag Imaging & Dental
- Vet Anesthesia & Analgesia
- Vet Clinical Pathology & Lab

WRITING
- Accelerated Learning Program
- *Arguing Across Contexts
- *Writing & the Professions
- *Writing & the Sciences
- *Writing Across Contexts
- Intro to College Writing
- Intro to Grant Writing
- Writing & Reading Strategies

WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES
- *Intro to Gender & Sexuality

This list is subject to change. Visit matsu.alaska.edu and click "Course schedules" for the most current list of scheduled classes.

**Indicates class meets General Education requirements (GERs)*

Semester runs January 12 - May 2

Congratulations, Deans and Chancellor's List Students!

This list combines Spring 2025 Deans and Chancellor's students.

Students who appear on the Dean's List have had a semester in which they had a GPA over 3.5. Students on the Chancellor's List have had a semester with a 4.0 GPA.

Jeremy Akers

Jonah Barrett-Lesko

Hannah Clinch

Marie Dehart

Sarah Ellsworth

Kelly Farwell

Jonathan Geddes

Ethan Griswold

Makenzie Hammond

Wade Hastings

Hudson Ladd

McKenna Nelson

Sara Phillips

Joseph Schnoberger

Allie Schock

Emily Smith

Elizabeth Spindler

Aren Springvloed

Adena Strauss

Molly Althens

Marissa Arneson

Rourke Asselin

Cynthia Chapman

Madisen Clark

Margaret Elton

Katie Everett

Elaine Ganchenko

Aleksandra Gapeshina

Avery Gayman

Megan Gehring

Anthony Hickel

Emily Hinman

Alexis Hinther

Hali Jackson

Gracie Johnson

Anastasiia Kalmykova

Mariah Kiljoha

Kayla Koops

Miranda Magee

Benny Markos

Bailey Miller

Samuel Woods Miller IV

Faith Poglitsh

Matthew Richey

Caylie Severs

Zoriana Sugiura-Peterson

Choltira Thatcher

John Thomas

Juliana White

Jeremiah Willer

Jessica Wright

What is the end of everything? The letter "G."

I follow you all the time and copy your every move, but you can't touch me. What am I? Your shadow.

A taxi driver is going down a one-way street the wrong way, and passes at least 10 cops. Why is she not caught? She was walking.

I turn once, so what is out will not get in. I turn again, so what is in will not get out. What am I? A key.

Put anything in me and I will make sure I'll hold, doesn't matter hot or cold. What am I? A cup.

What gets wetter as it dries? A towel.

What has to be broken before you can use it? An egg.

What goes up and never comes down? Your age.

How can Sarah go 8 days without sleep? She only sleeps at night.

ONE VOTE *By Ryan Dowd*

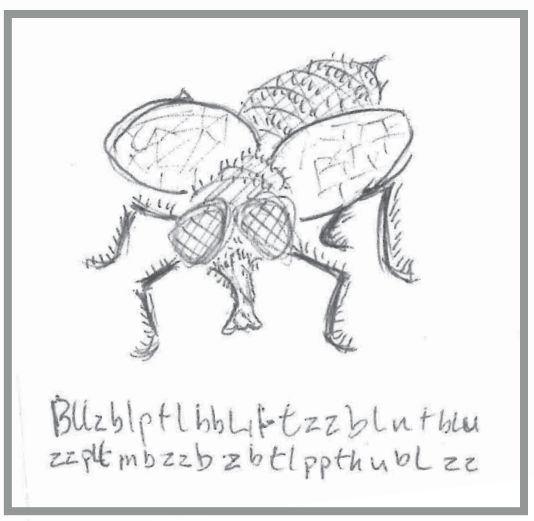
(To be clear, this email is not about elections).

THE BAD NEWS

You only get one vote for the type of WORLD you live in.
Will it be kind or will it be cruel?
Each of the 8,200,000,000 humans also get a vote…
You only get one vote for the type of COUNTRY you live in.
Will it be hopeful or will it be cynical?
If you live in the United States, each of the 340,100,000 other people also get a vote…
You only get one vote for the type of ORGANIZATION you work in.
Will it be ethical or will it be unethical?
Each of your coworkers also gets a vote…
You only get one vote for the type of FAMILY you live in.
Will it be supportive or will it be critical?
Your partner and children and parents and siblings also each gets a vote…
The Bad News: You don't get to unilaterally decide what your world, country, organization or family will be like.

THE GOOD NEWS

The Good News: You get to vote every single day, and multiple times per day.
Each time you interact with a STRANGER you get to vote for how the world and your country will be.
Will you make the world just a little more kind or will you make it just a little more cruel? A little more hopeful or a little more cynical?
Each time you work with a COWORKER you get to vote for how your organization will be.
Will you make your organization just a little more ethical or a little more unethical?
Each time you talk to a FAMILY MEMBER, you get to vote for how your family will be.
Will you make your family a little more supportive or a little more critical?
YOU GET TO CHOOSE
You can choose to give up because you don't have the all-encompassing power to unilaterally change the world.
Or you can choose to use every moment of every day to make the lives of the people around you just a little bit better.
Our culture is trying really hard to make you cynical.
It tells you that humanity is irredeemable.
It tells you that that your actions don't matter.
You can choose to listen to our culture and become cynical.
And if enough people choose cynicism, our collective future is bleak.
Or you can reject the cultural winds that buffet our lives.
You can choose to be hopeful about humanity… even though it seems naïve.
You can choose to realize that your actions do matter… at least to the people you interact with.
And if enough people choose hope, our collective future is promising.
None of us gets to unliterally decide our collective future, but we each get to vote again and again (and again!) through our actions.
Use each interaction to make the world just a little more kind, more ethical, more supportive, more hopeful…
That is—literally—all you can do.



SUDOKU

Fill the grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3 x 3 section contains all of the digits 1 through 9.

					8	3	5	4
7			6		2	8	1	
			9			7		2
	5	8	7		4			
4	3	2	5	1		6	7	8
	1				6			5
8	6			3				
3				9	5	1	2	
		9			7		8	

BE THE HERO

B	W	I	C	L	I	N	T	B	A	R	T	O	N	T
L	C	A	P	T	A	I	N	B	R	I	T	A	I	N
A	H	G	A	M	B	I	T	G	R	E	M	C	R	O
C	A	T	N	N	I	C	K	F	U	R	Y	I	O	I
K	W	O	L	V	E	R	I	N	E	P	O	R	N	S
W	R	W	E	R	C	O	G	D	M	E	S	E	F	I
I	Y	R	T	N	E	S	I	N	G	R	S	M	I	V
D	E	A	L	O	O	P	D	A	E	D	P	A	S	T
O	M	R	O	T	S	E	U	S	R	B	O	N	T	E
W	S	R	E	F	R	U	S	R	E	V	L	I	S	P
O	N	S	R	E	H	T	N	A	P	K	C	A	L	B
D	R	S	T	R	A	N	G	E	V	I	Y	T	B	I
H	C	R	O	T	N	A	M	U	H	O	C	P	L	I
R	E	L	W	A	R	C	T	H	G	I	N	A	T	Y
T	H	O	R	S	E	N	R	A	B	Y	K	C	U	B

Circle the words from the list below. Place the leftover letters in the spaces for a special message!

_ _ _ _

RockSat *continued from page 1*

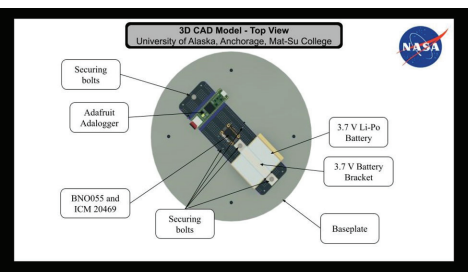
The Terrier-Improved Orion rocket launching with student experiments from Wallops Flight Facility on June 26, 2025

The first of these is RockOn! RockOn! is a workshop that focuses on building a predesigned experiment and launching it. RockOn! is designed to give students the preliminary hands-on experience needed to advance to the next challenge, RockSat-C. RockSat-C takes RockOn! and dials it up as a team is required to design, build, and test a sounding rocket experiment. Regular meetings are held with NASA experts every six weeks where the team gives a progress report on how the experiment is progressing. The experiment is designed to fit within guidelines set by NASA to fit into a pressurized space aboard a Terrier-Improved Orion sounding rocket. RockSat-C leads into the last of these challenges, RockSat-X. RockSat-X takes RockSat-C and adds on different requirements while also giving more space for larger experiments. The bonus of RockSat-X is the ability to expose the experiment to the vacuum of space in a more powerful rocket, the Terrier-Improved Malemute.

THE UAA MAT-SU COLLEGE EXPERIMENT

For the 2025 RockSat-C program, the UAA Mat-Su College team designed an experiment centered around testing Newtonian gravity by finding the mass of Earth. The experiment consists of two sensors: the ICM 20649 and the BNO055. The ICM 20649 works to record acceleration and gyroscopic data in the x-, y-, and z-axes. The ICM 20649 can handle the dynamics of the Terrier-Improved Orion, recording data up to 32 G's of force and over 4000 dps of rotation. The BNO055 collects acceleration data up to 16 G's, rotation data up to 2000 dps, and magnetic field data up to 2500 µT.

In total, the whole system weighs 6.4 lb with a diameter of 9" and a 2" height. The sensors are put into the center of the experiment to reduce any measured centripetal and tangential accelerations in the rocket. On opposite sides of the experiment are a 3.7 V Lithium-Polymer Battery for power and an Adafruit Adalogger RP2040 for data command.



A top view profile of the University of Alaska, Anchorage, Mat-Su College experiment

The experiment sensors, battery, and microcontroller are elevated off the top deck of the baseplates with four stand-offs to thermally isolate the experiment from the rocket. The two baseplates are a stainless-steel bottom plate and an aluminum top plate, both being 9" in diameter and ¼" thick. The baseplates are raised from the rocket with four more stand-offs to thermally isolate the experiment further.

NEWTON'S LAW OF GRAVITY AND NEWTON'S CANNON

All objects with mass experience gravity. This idea was first proposed by Sir Isaac Newton back in 1687 with his Law of. It relates the force of gravity on an object (F_g), the mass (m) of two objects, the distance (r) between the two objects, and the gravitational constant (G).

$$F_g = G\frac{m_1 m_2}{r^2}$$

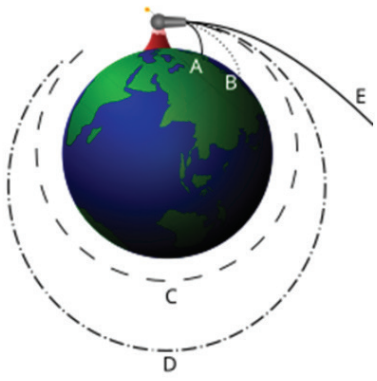
Near the surface of Earth, the acceleration of gravity is approximately constant. However, this assumption fails over large vertical distances from the surface. Going from Newton's Law of Gravity, an equation can be derived that relates the acceleration of gravity (g) to the altitude (h) above Earth's surface starting from the radius of Earth (R_{Earth}).

$$g = g_0\frac{R_{Earth}^2}{(R_{Earth}+h)^2}$$

The Terrier-Improved Orion, the rocket used in NASA's RockSat-C program, goes up to 118 km in altitude as per the RockSat-C program requirements. According to Newton's theory, at 118 km, the acceleration of gravity will be 3.6% less than at sea level. This change deviates enough from the constant acceleration assumption to test Newtonian gravity and measure the mass of Earth.

As stated earlier, near Earth's surface, the acceleration of gravity is nearly constant, causing the trajectory of objects thrown upward to appear parabolic. However, if an object is thrown over much higher distances, the acceleration of gravity changes enough that the path traced out is elliptical, or oval shaped, rather than parabolic. This was first postulated by Johannes Kepler in his Laws of Planetary Motion. The paths traced out by objects moving around Earth are referred to as orbits.

An orbit can be understood through the thought experiment of Newton's Cannon. When an object is thrown horizontally near Earth, common sense says it will fall back to the surface (Case A). While true for short distances, over longer distances, this fails. Due to the curvature of Earth and the increase in horizontal velocity, the object thrown will begin to go farther (Case B). Eventually, rather than hitting Earth, the object will have enough horizontal velocity to miss Earth and come back to its initial position (Cases C). Adding more horizontal velocity will cause the object to go farther out from Earth, taking longer to return (Case D). Given enough horizontal velocity, the object will break free of Earth and never return (Case E).



Newton's Cannon thought experiment

This shows that the same mechanics that apply to an object being thrown upward at the surface of Earth apply to objects in orbit. This idea can then be extended further to rockets launching out to the edge of space.

DETERMINING THE MASS OF EARTH

While the mass of Earth cannot be directly measured, indirect methods can be done to find it. A famous example of this can be seen in the Cavendish Experiment where the Gravitational Constant and mass of Earth were first accurately pinpointed using a torsion balance. The method used for the RockSat-C experiment utilizes the vis-viva equation which describes the relation between an object's velocity (v), radial distance (r), and the semi-major axis (a), the object's average radial distance, in an orbit.

$$v^2 = GM_{Earth}\left(\frac{2}{r}-\frac{1}{a}\right)$$

To get the vis-viva equation into a more computation friendly form, the equation is turned into a linear regression model.

$$v^2 = GM_{Earth}\left(\frac{2}{r}-\frac{1}{a}\right) \rightarrow y = mx + b$$

$$y = v^2 m = 2GM_{Earth}\ x = \frac{1}{r}$$

$$b = -\frac{GM_{Earth}}{a}$$

By taking the measured acceleration ($a_{measured}$) gathered in flight and accounting for changes in gravity with altitude, the data can be integrated once to find the rocket's velocity and integrated again to find the altitude.

$$v(t) = \int (a_{measured}(t) - g)dt$$

$$h(t) = \int v(t)dt$$

Adding in the radius of Earth (REarth) to the altitude gives the rocket's radial distance in orbit.

$$r(t) = h(t) + R_{Earth}$$

Plotting a graph of v2 against r-1 gives a straight line where the line's slope (m) from the linear regression model can be used to find the mass of Earth.

$$M_{Earth} = \frac{m}{2G}$$

Weatherization *continued from page 1*

to all exterior faucets from inside the house and disconnect/drain all outdoor hoses. Refrigeration and heating professor Chad Petrie says, "Few things can disrupt the holidays like the inconvenience and expense of burst pipes." This is also a good time of year to have your chimney inspected/cleaned, and to check around your windows and exterior door frames to ensure there is a good seal. Fix/patch as needed and remember, a door sweep or draft guard at the bottom of exterior doors can make a noticeable difference.

Now that the heat will stay where we want it, it's time to fire it up (figuratively). Your heating, plumbing, and safety systems require special attention before winter sets in. Schedule an annual inspection and tune-up with a qualified Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) professional to ensure your furnace or boiler is operating safely and efficiently. Chad shares, "A simple professional inspection won't run you very much money but can save you time and expense, possibly preventing the heat from going out when it's 50 degrees below freezing." This is also a good time to replace your furnace filter, as a clean filter will improve air quality and reduce your heating system's workload.

The days of the celebrated and heroic Maytag repairman may be relegated to the nostalgia centers of our brains, but the time and effort these professionals put in to be able to protect us from the elements makes them unrecognized lifesavers every day.

The Refrigeration and Heating program at Mat-Su College is a proven training ground for those interested in this vital and in-demand set of skills. The program can be completed in two semesters, and graduates have many career opportunities, can specialize in specific areas, and often graduate with a job in hand.

With the onset of winter being unavoidable, why not learn how to minimize any negative impact from the cold while supporting yourself and your family.

For more information on this and all the programs available at Mat-Su College, visit www.mat.su.alaska.edu.

Artists *continued from page 5*

Rarefied Light 2025 opens on March 20th in campus room FSM 200 from 4 pm to 6 pm.

More openings are being planned, and details will be shared when available. Coming this September, look for the Portrait Society of Alaska's opening. Then in April and May, Mat-Su College students will steal the spotlight with back-to-back openings.

All openings at the Gallery at Mat-Su College are free and open to the public. Professor Mishaan says, "Art is a conversation—between artist, viewer, and context—and every viewer brings something unique to that exchange." She recommends attendees ask themselves four simple questions when at an opening:

What emotions or thoughts does the work provoke in you?

How does the artist use materials, composition, and space to communicate meaning?

What cultural, historical,or personal references might be embedded in the work?

Can you find connections between the artwork and your own life or environment?

For more information on art or other subjects taught at Mat-Su College, please visit www.matsu.alaska.edu.

Opportunities Start Here!

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University of Alaska Anchorage

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